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Nangarhar Infrastructure Needs Assessment

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Nangarhar Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Goshta, Kama Behsud, Pachir-Wa-Agam, Chaparhar and Surkh Rod Districts
September 14 – 18, 2003

The Deputy Director of Agriculture for Nangarhar province, Mr. Niaz Mohd. Shahid, identified the lack of available water for irrigation as the greatest problem facing agricultural in the province, particularly in areas near the foot of White Mountain.

Nangarhar Province

1. The Deputy Governor of Nangarhar, Dr. Asif, noted that previous road repairs by the donor community have been inadequate, lasting for only a couple months. He now prefers smaller scale, higher quality works in the future, i.e. paved roads. He identified the 6 km road between Jalalabad and Surkh Rod as a priority road for paving.
2. The DG mentioned that the development of eleven reservoirs through the construction of check dams could vastly improve the irrigation and agricultural production situation for the province by replenishing the water tables, preventing erosion and the loss of water through runoff and bringing more land under cultivation. Suitable places for these reservoirs are known as tangies, and the sites were clearly identified by the Director of Irrigation.
3. The Director of Irrigation also explained that PMS Japan Project has begun activities to provide irrigation for over 30,000 ha of land in the Gamberi Desert. An engineer working for the project identified the following activities to be done in synchrony with this work for full rehabilitation of the irrigation system:
 - Two intakes in Surkh Rod district need repair
 - Two intakes in Goshta district need repair
 - One retaining wall in Qachera of Khewa district is needed
 - A retaining wall for the Kama intake is needed

Kama District

1. The Governor of Kama district, Mr. Haji Ajab Khan, cited the need for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in Kama. A major intake on the Kabul River is in need of repair. Water from the intake provides irrigation for over 3,000 jeribs of land used for cultivating rice, maize, sugarcane and vegetables. There is currently no water available for wheat planting in autumn and winter, and repair of the intake would allow for a wheat crop to be cultivated in addition to current crops.
2. Local groups are currently working to construct a diversion dam in the same area. One group reported to the minister that a 100 meter retaining wall is needed to make the dam function properly. Three intakes on the nearby dam are badly in need of repair.

Behsud District

1. In Behsud district, the Governor, Haji Sayed Agha, recommended four roads to be repaired:

- Qasim Abad Road
- Bar Abad Road
- Karez Kabir Road
- Gherdi Kass and Samar Khil Road

2. In addition, the Governor identified the highest priority irrigation projects for the district, identified in the table below.

Behsud District Priority Irrigation Infrastructure Needs

<i>Project/Site</i>	<i>Increase in Number of Jeribs to be Irrigated</i>	<i>Number of Beneficiaries</i>
Nahri Shahi Intake	6,000	26,250
Tangi Tokhchi	20,000	45,000
Gerdi Kas Intake	1,200	3,600
Samar Khil Intake	1,500	22,500

3. Although figures on the increase in amount of land area to be irrigated and the number of beneficiaries were not given, the Governor of Behsud also identified the following additional irrigation projects as priorities:

- Sher Zad Tangi (reservoir) construction
- Wazir Tangi (reservoir) construction
- Nahri Shahi Intake repair

Estimated Cost

The Ministry of Irrigation estimates the total cost of US \$1.5 million to rehabilitate all canals and karezes in Nangarhar province. The Nangarhar Valley Development Authority estimates a need for an additional US \$1.5 million to rebuild three destroyed secondary canals at the end of the main irrigation system.